(SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) (b) As per the extant policy, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 51% is allowed with prior Government approval, in retail trade of 'Single Brand' products. Guidelines notified, vide Press Note 3 (2006 Series), require:

i. Products to be sold should be of a 'Single Brand' only.

ii. Products should be sold under the same brand internationally.

iii. 'Single Brand' product-retailing would cover only products which are branded during manufacturing.

The Government has recently entrusted a reputed research organisation, Indian Council for International Economic Research (ICRIER), to conduct a comprehensive impact assessment of the participation of large foreign and domestic companies in the retail sector with reference to the small scale retailers and vendors.

Smoking at common places

2440. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have prohibited smoking at common places;

(b) whether chewing tobacco at common places is permitted;

(c) whether sale of cigarette, beedi, gutka, etc. at common places is permitted;

(d) whether special facilities are provided to the tobacco products for sowing it; and

(e) if so, the reasons for such a discrimination with the smokers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No special facilities are provided (except supply of seeds to registered

growers/nurserymen for Flue Cured Virginia tobacco, as per tobacco Board Rules).

(e) Does not arise.

Growth rate of manufacturing sector

†2441. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJMOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an assessment regarding annual growth rate of development in the manufacturing sector of the country during 2005-06 and 2006-07, from April to February has been made;

(b) if so, the annual growth rate of development in the above mentioned period, separately; and

(c) the extent by which this actual rate is less or more than the fixed target of the annual growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The growth rate of the manufacturing sector, in terms of index of Industrial Production (IIP), was 9.1% in2005-06. As per the latest data available, growth rate of the manufacturing sector was 11.9% during 2006-07 (April-January).

(c) No annual growth target is fixed for the manufacturing sector.

Increase in cement price

†2442. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.